

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
Washington 25

B-107504

February 26, 1952

STATINTL

Irma R. Black, Authorized Certifying Officer
Civil Aeronautics Administration
Department of Commerce

Dear Madam:

Reference is made to your letter of January 14, 1952, transmitting a voucher in the amount of \$9.82 stated in favor of C. H. Harper, Chief, Supply Division, Civil Aeronautics Administration, for per diem, mileage, and expenses for round trip travel performed December 6, 1951, between Washington, D. C., and New York, New York, and requesting a decision as to whether you may certify the voucher for payment--a question having been raised by you in respect of two items contained therein totaling \$2.32, of which \$1.82 represents mileage for travel by privately owned automobile from employee's residence to the National Airport and return, and of which \$0.50 represents expenses incurred for parking said automobile at the airport on the date above indicated.

Section 4 of the Travel Expense Act of 1949, 63 Stat. 166, and paragraph 12a of the Standard Government Travel Regulations authorizes the use of a privately owned automobile for official travel "whenever such mode of transportation is authorized or approved as more advantageous to the Government." Although the employee's travel order did not authorize the use of his privately owned automobile upon a mileage basis for any portion of the official travel, the voucher contains the following administrative statement:

"Travel by privately owned automobile, including parking at the airport, is not in excess of taxi fare and is hereby approved."

In that connection it has been ascertained informally that the sum claimed as mileage and for parking is approximately 50 percent of the customary charge for two taxicab fares between the employee's residence and the airport.

It is to be observed that neither paragraph 8 nor 12 of the cited regulations specifically authorizes reimbursement covering charges incurred for parking either a private or public owned conveyance. However, having regard for paragraph 1 of the regulations which requires employees when traveling on official business to exercise the same care in incurring expenses that a prudent person would exercise if traveling on personal business, and considering that the amount claimed for mileage for travel by privately owned automobile from home to airport and return plus the parking fee, is less than the usual allowable taxicab fares authorized in such cases, this Office will interpose no